

Squadron Position Policy

CADET PROTECTION POLICY

PURPOSE – CAPR 52-10

CAP is committed to doing everything reasonably possible to combat the potential for child abuse within our organization and to discourage our cadets from illegal use of alcohol and other drugs. CAP members are expected to avoid even the appearance of impropriety involving cadets and report suspected abuse immediately. For the purpose of this policy, abuse is defined in two categories. The first is sexual abuse. Cadets will not be subjected to sexual molestation, touching, contact, exposure, suggestions, or other incidents of a sexually oriented nature. Physical abuse is the second type. Cadets will not be physically struck, hazed, or assaulted in any way.

Hazing is defined as any conduct whereby someone causes another to suffer or to be exposed to any activity that is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful. Actual or implied consent to acts of hazing does not eliminate the culpability of the perpetrator. Examples of hazing include using exercise as punishment or assigning remedial training that does not fit the deficiency (such as making a cadet run laps for having poorly shined shoes). Hazing, as defined in this policy, is considered a form of physical abuse and the reporting procedures for physical abuse must be followed.

Senior members, cadets, and parents/guardians should immediately report incidents of observed or suspected abuse to the unit commander or commander at the next higher level of command. Whenever a commander has received a report of abuse, suspects that abuse has occurred or may occur, or believes there is an appearance of impropriety in the nature of cadet abuse by a member of CAP, the commander will immediately suspend the member from working with cadets and will report the abuse.

No investigation will be conducted nor statements taken until specifically directed by the General Counsel. The General Counsel will notify the region commander, other appropriate officials, and state agencies as required.

The unit commander will immediately notify the wing commander who will immediately notify the region commander, the wing legal officer, and the General Counsel. The wing commander will consult with the wing legal officer before directing an investigation or administrative action. In cases where physical injuries are involved, follow the notification and reporting procedures in CAPR 62-2, *Mishap Reporting and Investigation*. Members who have observed or believe they have been subject to physical abuse may file a complaint in accordance with CAPR 123-2, *Complaints*.

Our unit will not tolerate any form of abuse. The Unit Commander will initiate appropriate personnel actions when it is determined there is cause to separate any member (cadet or senior) from contact with cadets. Personnel actions involving sexual abuse cases must be coordinated in advance with the General Counsel. The personnel action will depend on the nature and seriousness of the incident. Available options include suspended status (CAPR 35-1, *Assignment and Duty Status*) or nonrenewal action (CAPM 39-2, *Civil Air Patrol Membership*).

Senior members, cadets, and persons who supervise cadet activities or serve in leadership positions must possess high moral and ethical standards, be emotionally stable, and demonstrate leadership qualities necessary to serve as positive role models. All senior members must be screened in accordance with CAPM 39-2 and undergo cadet protection training before working with cadets (CAPR 50-17, *CAP Senior Member Training Program*)